REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-39 will remain in the application.

Claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Hoffberg et al. (US 6,400,996, hereinafter "Hoffberg").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants teach a technique for formalizing the parameterization of data flow graphs to allow runtime parameters. Applicants also teach a conditional components mechanism that permits changes to a data flow graph structure based on parameter values and computed metadata.

Data flow graphs may be used to describe the flow of information through complex business systems. Vertices in a data flow graph represent components (either data files or processes), and links or "edges" in the graph indicate flows of data between components. Figures 2, 9, 11, 14, 15, and 18, and 21 show exemplary data flow graphs.

Hoffberg discloses an adaptive pattern recognition based method that may be used to predict what instructions or choices a user most likely will use based on previous inputs from the user (for example, for use in programming a VCR).

"Applicant may be his or her own lexicographer as long as the meaning assigned to the term is not repugnant to the term's well known usage." MPEP 2111.01, citing In re Hill, 161 F.2d 367, 73 USPQ 482 (CCPA 1947).

As used by Applicants, a "component" refers to a data file or process. Hoffberg does not show a graph that includes a vertex representing a component such as data file or process and a link representing a flow of data. The Action relies on FIG. 3 of Hoffberg in rejecting claim 1, characterizing it as a graph. However, this figure does not include components or flows. Furthermore, the differences in second(s) shown in FIG. 3 is characterized as a runtime parameter. However, there is no indication that the time values shown in the figure are determined at runtime.

Consider exemplary independent claims 1 and 9, which recite in relevant part:

"1. A method for executing a graph having <u>components with parameters</u>, including:

(a) retrieving a runtime parameter for the graph at runtime execution of the graph, the runtime parameter having a value defined as determinable at runtime execution of the graph;…" (emphasis added).

"9. A method for modifying a graph at runtime execution of the graph, including:

(a) determining at runtime execution of the graph whether <u>any component of the graph is defined as being a conditional component</u> having a condition and a condition-interpretation;…" (emphasis added).

Hoffberg does not disclose or suggest executing a graph having components with parameters or having conditional components. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 9, 14, 22, 27, and 35 and their dependencies are allowable.

Claims 1-39 were indicated to be objected to in the Office Action Summary, however, no reasons were given for the objections. Accordingly, Applicants are unable to respond to the objections.

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenyon S. Jenckes
Reg. No. 41,873

Fish & Richardson P.C.
PTO Customer No. 20985
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 500
San Diego, California 92122
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099

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